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Testimony for Public Hearing CIA funds

The Community Investment Act that was implemented a couple years ago with its own funding mechanism is absolutely essential for the future of our Dairy Farms in the State. My name is James Jacquier a 3rd generation dairy farmer from East Canaan Ct. I also represent dairy farmers from CT on the Agrimark/Cabot Board of Directors which markets milk from 1200 NE and NY family farms. The CIA has played a significant role in providing payments to farmers towards the true cost of their production to produce milk in CT.

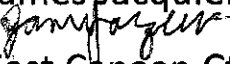
All farms have benefited from the CIA in many different ways. The fact that UCONN shows an astounding 2 billion in economic impact to Ct is astounding in itself. The preservation of open space to farming is crucial to shaping the landscapes CT residents enjoy. On the farm level, continuous investment in infrastructure, surviving the huge swings of our pay price, providing farm tours to the public, and the continuity between urban and our rural communities, are examples the CIA has been responsible for.

Knowing where your food comes from has been an important shift the last few years. Making milk may be cheaper to produce in Texas or Michigan but producing this perishable product locally ensures a major part in Economic growth looking ahead. Our 140 dairy farms in Ct is the critical mass we must maintain or grow. The CIA is a major player to the survival of these farms and is imperative we continue to support this.

As a dairy farmer we have committed to giving back in our communities, open our doors to non-farm people, donate to local food banks, implement Animal Care protocols, and provide the State of Ct with the safest, most nutritious, wholesome product, we call milk.

Please support the CIA in its entirety and be assured we will stand up to our obligations at the farm level.

Thankyou,

James Jacquier

East Canaan Ct